



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The September 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 5.1 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point from the August 2002 rate of 5.0 percent and up six-tenths of a percentage point from the September 2001 rate of 4.5 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from August to September by 400 individuals, while an increase of 300 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,500 in August to 12,800 in September. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 100 individuals from August to September 2002. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 1,500 unemployed individuals and a decrease of 3,200 employed individuals, which led to a decrease of 1,700 in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the September 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: September 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,086	8,072	4.5	173,014
Adams	1,773	224	12.6	1,550
Boise	2,841	176	6.2	2,666
Canyon	69,902	4,715	6.7	65,187
Elmore	9,939	771	7.8	9,168
Gem	6,252	581	9.3	5,671
Owyhee	4,756	244	5.1	4,512
Payette	9,943	980	9.9	8,963
Valley	3,992	345	8.6	3,647
Washington	4,442	409	9.2	4,033
Statewide	686,485	37,521	5.5	648,964

Approximately 800 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added in the Boise City MSA between August and September 2002, while there was a decrease of 1,000 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since September 2001.

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	Sept 2002*	Aug 2002	Sept 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,000	251,100	252,700	0.0	-0.7
Unemployment	12,800	12,500	11,300	2.4	13.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.0	4.5		
Total Employment	238,200	238,600	241,400	-0.2	-1.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	249,000	253,500	250,600	-1.8	-0.6
Unemployment	11,600	11,600	10,100	0.0	14.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.6	4.0		
Total Employment	237,400	241,900	240,500	-1.9	-1.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	230,700	229,900	231,700	0.3	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Construction & Mining	15,900	16,100	17,100	-1.2	-7.0
Manufacturing	34,600	34,700	36,000	-0.3	-3.9
Durable Goods	26,200	26,400	27,600	-0.8	-5.1
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,100	3,200	0.0	-3.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,200	7,300	7,700	-1.4	-6.5
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,300	11,300	12,000	0.0	-5.8
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,800	1,700	-5.6	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,300	8,400	1.2	0.0
Food & Kindred Products	5,700	5,500	5,700	3.6	0.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,600	1,700	6.3	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	900	800	-85.5	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Trans., Comm., & Public Utilities	12,400	12,200	12,200	1.6	1.6
Transportation	7,000	6,800	7,000	2.9	0.0
Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	5,400	5,400	5,200	0.0	3.8
Trade	56,500	56,700	56,700	-0.4	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	12,600	12,700	12,700	-0.8	-0.8
Durable Goods	7,700	7,800	7,700	-1.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,900	4,900	5,000	0.0	-2.0
Retail Trade	43,900	44,000	44,000	-0.2	-0.2
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,900	5,700	0.0	3.5
Foods Stores	7,300	7,400	7,600	-1.4	-3.9
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,700	0.0	0.0
Other Retail Trade	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,700	11,800	11,600	-0.8	0.9
Business Services	63,800	64,200	62,800	-0.6	1.6
Health Services	13,600	13,800	14,700	-1.4	-7.5
Hospitals	19,300	19,300	18,400	0.0	4.9
Eng. Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related	9,200	9,300	8,500	-1.1	8.2
Other Services	5,600	5,700	5,200	-1.8	7.7
Government	25,300	25,400	24,500	-0.4	3.3
Federal Government	35,800	34,200	35,300	4.7	1.4
State Government	5,600	5,500	5,300	1.8	5.7
Education	13,300	12,600	13,700	5.6	-2.9
Administration	4,300	3,600	4,500	19.4	-4.4
Local Government	9,000	9,000	9,200	0.0	-2.2
Education	16,900	16,100	16,300	5.0	3.7
Administration	10,700	9,900	10,500	8.1	1.9
	6,200	6,200	5,800	0.0	6.9

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 300 jobs between August and September 2002 with job losses occurring in *Construction & Mining* (-200), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (-100), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-100), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-100), while job gains occurred over the same time period in *Food & Kindred Products* (200) primarily *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,600 jobs with no job gains and job losses occurring in *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (-100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (-500), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipments & Component Manufacturing* (-700), and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (-100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries gained 1,100 jobs between August and September 2002. Job losses in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100), *Food Stores* (-100), *Business Services* (-200), *Hospital Services* (-100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (-100), and *Other Services* (-100), were outpaced by job increases in *Transportation* (200), *Federal Government* (100), *State Government Education* (700), and *Local Government Education* (800) to create the net increase in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs. Most of the job increases occurred in *State and Local Government Education*, which is expected during this month as local school districts reopen after summer break for the beginning of fall semester. From September 2001 to September 2002 there was an increase of 1,600 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (200), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services* (900) primarily *Hospitals* (700), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (400), *Other Services* (800), *Federal Government* (300), *Local Government Education* (200), and *Local Government Administration* (400) outpacing job losses in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100), *Food Stores* (-300), *Business Services* (-1,100), *State Government Education* (-200), and *State Government Administration* (-200).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Washington Group International (WGI) recently announced that it landed a major long-term contract. WGI, along with Bechtel National Inc. won a multi-year contract from the U.S. Army to build and operate a chemical weapons destruction facility in Pueblo, Colorado. The project will be completed in

six phases and will generate revenue of between \$800 million and \$1.5 billion for the two companies.

- Sears Roebuck and Co. announced in early October that it planned to sell, shut down, or shrink its data center in Boise; this could affect 130 employees. The company plans to make a decision about the operation within a few months.
- Civic Plaza, the next phase of Boise's Courthouse Corridor project, will begin soon. The \$45 million project near the intersection of Front Street and Broadway Avenue in downtown Boise will include 299 apartments, 320 parking spaces, and more than 28,000-square feet of retail services. Construction of the two-building project was scheduled to begin in late October. The target date for completion is fall 2003 for the first building and spring 2004 for the second building.
- The Boise City Council passed a measure to spend more than \$3 million for two pieces of property for library expansion. The measure includes plans to purchase 4.7 acres on ParkCenter Boulevard for a new branch library and to purchase the Shaver's, Inc. grocery warehouse on Eighth Street, adjacent to the main Boise Library, for expansion; the city already owns property at the corner of Cole and Ustick for another branch. There currently are no plans to start construction of the new library branches or expand the existing library facility downtown in the near future.
- The Boise Planning and Zoning Commission approved revisions to the Harris Ranch master plan in mid-October. Under the agreement, Harris Ranch developers and the Boise Parks and Recreation Department came to an agreement about plans for routing the Greenbelt through the 1,800-acre development. The next step for Harris Ranch is to build the East ParkCenter Bridge; once that is complete, the developers can propose detailed plans for the remaining development phases of the planned community. The detailed plans will show where roads will be located, where houses will be built, and how development will affect and work around wetlands areas. When complete the Harris Ranch development will include 3,100 home sites.
- Krispy Kreme announced in early October that it would open its first Idaho doughnut shop in Meridian. The 4,600-square-foot outlet is planned for the southwest corner of Fairview Avenue and Eagle Road. Store construction will begin in November and be completed in January; Krispy Kreme will open the outlet in late January.
- Marshalls opened its first Idaho store in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Meridian in late October. About 60 full- and part-time workers are employed

- at the retail outlet that sells brand-name fashions and home accents at reduced prices.
- The Meridian City Council recently approved the Lochsa Falls subdivision. The development will be the largest planned subdivision in the city. Lochsa Falls will be located northeast of Ten Mile Road and McMillan Street and will include 862 homes, 171 apartments, 11 office buildings, and a commercial structure. The site will eventually include a 25-acre city park, a six-acre neighborhood park, and land for a fire station.
 - Sanitary Services, the company that collects trash in Meridian, recently announced plans to move to a new site. The new 12-acre site is located on the north side of Franklin Street between Linder and Ten Mile Roads. Company officials hope to start construction in January on an office, shop, and parking lot so that the company can relocate in the spring.
 - Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP) announced in late September that the company would cut an additional 1,800 people from its workforce. "Continued market slowdown and HP's clear intent to have a competitive world-class cost structure" were reasons cited for the latest reductions. No information was available on how many would be laid off at the Boise facility.
 - The Nampa Public Library held its annual used book sale and silent auction in October. Library officials plan to move the event next year to a vacant storefront because more space is needed for the sale. During the next budget year, a consulting firm will assess the need for a new library as well as its new location. The study will examine building space, collection size, special programs, and services offered by the library. In addition, the study will assess the needs of community members. The Nampa Urban Renewal Agency provided \$20,000 to fund the study.
 - Northridge Medical Center, a 15,000-square-foot medical office building is currently under construction in Nampa. The building is located south of the Mercy North building near Interstate 84. The new facility will house up to six medical offices. Construction should be completed by December.
 - ConAgra Foods sold 54 percent of its meatpacking business to Hicks, Muse, Tate and Furst of Dallas, Texas, and Booth Creek Management, Inc. of Vail, Colorado. The company has seven meatpacking plants, including the Nampa facility, that were affected by the sale. The Nampa plant officially changed hands in mid-September; officials at the Nampa facility do not expect changes in the operation other than the name change from ConAgra to Swift & Company.
 - Kit Manufacturing in Caldwell recently announced that it would sell its Caldwell recreational vehicle division and its manufactured homes division. Scott Thorpe, the recreational vehicle division's general sales manager hopes to buy that division. Thorpe and Kit Manufacturing had planned to decide in early November whether or not to finalize the sale. No sale has been made on the manufactured homes division, though there are many interested parties. The company employs 250 people at its recreational vehicle plant and 150 people at its manufactured housing plant. It does not expect any personnel to be affected by the sale of either division.
 - Residents of Caldwell passed an \$11 million school bond in early October. Voters approved the three-section construction bond that includes: \$7 million for a new elementary school and improvements for the other elementary schools in the district, \$3.5 million for new classrooms and an expansion of the facilities at Caldwell High School, and \$500,000 to build a 3,800-seat sports stadium at Caldwell High School.
 - Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) recently announced the school was more than \$4.5 million in debt. The financial trouble is the result of a poor economy that affected the college's endowment fund, slower enrollment growth, and fewer donations. To deal with the budget shortfall, the college has formed five task forces to examine the school's budget to see which programs could be cut and which positions could be eliminated; ACI has also planned an aggressive fundraising campaign. This fall, ACI has a total of 824 undergraduate students enrolled—7 percent more than last year—representing the largest enrollment on the Albertson campus in more than a decade.
 - Recent business news in the Boise City MSA includes: the announced opening of Blue Sky Bagels in the former Rocky Mountain Bagel Bakery in downtown Boise in early November; the opening of a Mountain West Bank branch in the Lincoln Plaza building in Meridian; the opening of a Home Federal branch in the Garden City Wal-Mart Supercenter, and the opening of the newest El Tenampa restaurant at 248 Caldwell Boulevard. In other news: Bardenay announced it plans to open a second Treasure Valley restaurant in Eagle in 2003; Flowerama leased 2,680-square feet of space at 222 South Orchard in Boise; Lender Developmental Resources leased space in the Northgate Shopping Center in Boise; AutoZone announced it will build a second Treasure Valley location on Collister Drive in Boise to open in March; a Comfort Suites hotel will be built near the Boise Airport in 2003; Eagle Beverage closed in September and the building was sold to the State Liquor Dispensary, which will open a

store by the end of the year; Fun/Sun Tanning and Toni's Country Cuts leased space in The Birches in Nampa; Plum Creek Cottage opened in a space adjacent to Cranberry Corner in Nampa; Intermountain Community Bank reopened its Nampa branch after a remodel; construction began on a 5,500-square-foot Wells Fargo branch on Karcher Road in Nampa; Austin Family Chiropractic opened a location at 203 Twelfth Avenue in Nampa; The Simple Seasons opened at 1016 Twelfth Avenue South in Nampa; Benchmark Electric built a 10,000-square-foot warehouse/office complex on Executive Drive in Nampa; and Farmers and Merchants State Bank held a grand opening at its new branch located at Twelfth Avenue and Blaine in Caldwell.

Adams County

- Shaver's sold its Council store to Ron and Lidia Wilson in mid-September. The 12,800-square-foot store has 19 employees. The store name will be changed from Shaver's to Ronnie's. No additional information regarding the sale was disclosed.
- Clearwater Research announced that the company was leaving Council. Company officials cited "economic realities" as reasons for the closure. The company decided that in order to improve efficiency, they had to eliminate the Council satellite office and consolidate in Boise. Company officials promised employees "generous severance packages" that included bonuses for employees who started working there before December 1, 2001 and who had continued working for the company through December 15, 2002. All employees were offered positions at the Boise facility.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort announced in early October that it plans to hire more than 500 seasonal employees. At a job fair October 12, Bogus Basin hired workers for the following seasonal positions: day-care and parking attendants, ticket and retail shop cashiers, ski and snowboard instructors, snow cat and lift operators, and safety and ski patrol members. Employees are paid a minimum of \$6.25 per hour plus benefits and, if they stay through the season, they could receive a bonus.

Elmore County

- The continued reorganization at the Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) appears to be completed. MHAFB was a composite wing with several types of aircraft; after the reorganization, it is now an all-fighter wing. Base headquarters in Mountain Home will now be known as the 366th Fighter Wing. The new fighter wing flies F-15Cs, F-15Es, and F16CJs; MHAFB is also a contender for the next generation fighter—the F-22.

Gem County

- Five acres of Boise Cascade property recently was transferred to the Gem County Recreation District. The property is located at West Main and Canal Streets in Emmett and is valued at over \$212,000. The land will most likely be used to build a community center, although other considerations for the land include creating an indoor recreation center or an interpretive center containing information on Gem County's history.

Owyhee County

- The Valley Merc in Bruneau closed its doors in early September. This was the only general store in the community and now residents must travel twenty miles to Mountain Home to buy groceries and other goods. In an auction this summer, the grocery store, Laundromat, café, convenience store, gas station, motel, and bar went up for sale. The bar was the only business that was sold.

Valley County

- Whitetail Club closed its operations on October 14 and will reopen on May 1, 2003. Some full-time security, engineering, and maintenance staff, including golf course personnel, will continue working at Whitetail while office personnel will continue taking reservations and making catering arrangements for next summer. When Whitetail is closed, the company plans to "polish staff and get systems in place." There are 20 full-time and 20 part-time people employed at Whitetail.
- A Boise development group recently proposed the construction of a \$6 million complex near downtown McCall. The complex would include a 90-room hotel and 10,000-square-foot conference center.
- Spring Mountain Ranch, a residential development near McCall, placed 26 of its home sites on the auction block in mid-October. The development was originally scheduled to include 750 home sites when it was first marketed in the early 90's, but has been scaled back to 250 sites following slow sales in the past decade.

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